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COMMERCIAL LAW. By D. CURTIS GANO, of the Rochester (N. Y.) Bar, assisted by SAMUEL C. WILLIAMS, teacher of Commercial Law in the Rochester Business Institute. One volume, pp. 399. New York: The American Book Company. 1904.

Of the making of books purporting to teach "business" or "commercial" law, there is apparently no ending. These volumes are generally excellent as far as they go, and do good service as text-books in high schools, or enable the busy man to get some idea of lines of business and of the legal principles underlying them in divisions of commercial operation other than his own.

The volume at present under consideration is somewhat different from the ordinary run of business law text-books, being more pretentious and going into the purely technical side of business law in some detail. The wisdom of strengthening the statement of legal principles by a reference to and abstract of leading cases is of course entirely a matter of opinion, but to us the plan appears to be a good one, even when adopted in a book of this character. The subjects treated of include contracts, sales of personal property, negotiable instruments, agency, bailment, partnership, corporations, insurance, real property, to which are added chapters on courts and their jurisdiction, pleading and practice, and an appendix containing sections on limitation of actions, interest tables, days of grace, statute of frauds, married women, exemption laws, chattel mortgages.

This summary of the contents will give some idea of the scope of the work. It is sufficient to say that this appears to be among the best of the books dealing with this subject that we have seen, and that it will be found excellent for use in high schools or academies, or for freshening up the memory with regard to the practical details of ordinary business operations.

F. H. S.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW OF THE UNITED STATES. By FRANK J. GOODNOW, LL.D., Eaton Professor of Administrative Law and Municipal Science in Columbia University. New York: G. P. Putnam & Sons. 1905.

In about five hundred pages Professor Goodnow presents an admirable summary of our administrative law. In the endeavor to give the general reader a work of a size not forbidding, the author has been compelled to omit exhaustive discussions of his topics. He has contented himself with general

principles, leaving the special student to work out for himself their application in the five or six hundred cases cited in the foot-notes. The book will be most valuable as a scientific classification of the principles. A mere glance at the table of contents shows this. The first of the six books, into which the volume is divided, gives the general bearing of administration to the other two departments of government, the legislative and judicial; the second describes the federal administration, or, as it is here named, "the central administration;" the third, local administration; the fourth, the qualifications, rights and duties of administrative officials; the fifth, the methods and forms of administration, statutes and their execution; the sixth, the control over the administration, over an officer by his superior, by the courts, and by the legislature.

Now a student of constitutional law wishing to see the application of the Eleventh Amendment, or of *Marbury v. Madison*, notices at once that it fits into control over an officer by the courts, and how this general topic is related to the whole study.

P. D.

PROBATE REPORTS—ANNOTATED. VOL. IX. CONTAINING RECENT CASES OF GENERAL VALUE DECIDED IN THE COURTS OF THE SEVERAL STATES ON POINTS OF PROBATE LAW. WITH NOTES AND REFERENCES. By WILLIAM LAWRENCE CLARK, of the New York Bar; author of "Clark on Contracts," "Clark and Marshall on Corporations," etc. Pp. 706. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1905.

Following out the plan of this series of reports, which is to give in about one volume a year contemporaneous in recent decisions of the highest courts of the different states upon matters cognizable in Probate and Surrogate Courts, this volume has appeared.

A feature distinguishing it from previous volumes of the series is the presence of numerous and copious notes, prepared by the editor as supplements to reputed cases. As among the most exhaustive of these notes may be mentioned those on the rights of children omitted from a will, the power of probate courts to open, correct, vacate, or modify their orders, judgment in decrees, annuities, post-nuptial agreements between husband and wife, releasing wife's dower or other interest to husband's estate, attorney's fees for procuring letters of administration, who may sue on claims due estate, title of heirs, etc., and right of action in relation to real estate, adoption of children in relation to probate law, revocation of wills by marriage or birth of child, conditions in wills against con-